California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 1994 Volume 85 No.3 $1.50



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Apr.30–May 1 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** Rose Show and Sale
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat.1–5PM; Sun. 11AM–4PM. Call 310/544-1948. Fee.

May 1 **LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM** Annual Plant Sale
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Unusual Perennials. 9AM–4PM. 818/821-3222. $5 Fee.

May 3 ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basket Class
Casa del Prado, Room 104, Balboa Park. Reed & Dracena Leaf Basket. 9:30AM–2:30PM. Reservations. Cost is $25 nonmember, $20 member. Call 232-5762.

May 7 ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour
Spectacular Private Gardens in North County. Lunch Included. For reservations and information call 232-5762. Cost $30 members, $33 nonmember.

May 7 **LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB** Annual Plant Sale
Home Savings Bank, 777 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Sat. 9AM–2PM. Call 459-2825.

May 7-8 **VISTA GARDEN CLUB** 60th Annual Flower Show & Plant Sale
1400 Vale Terrace Dr., Senior Ctr., Vista. Sat. 1:30–5PM; Sun. 10AM–4PM. Call 724-4828. Free.

May 7-8 **DESCANSO GARDENS** Los Angeles Branch—International Geranium Society Show & Sale
1418 Descanso Dr., LaCanada. Sat. & Sun. 10AM–4PM. Call 213/681-2201. Admission fee.

May 8 **AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER** Free Ivy Plants for Children
Casa del Prado, Front area, Balboa Park. 400 Ivy plants, for Mother's Day. 1:00PM. Call 436-0460.

May 8 **SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY** 24th Mother's Day Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sun. 11AM–5PM. Free.

May 10 ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basket Class
Basket is Decorative Pine Needle. Instructor, Marci Stone. See May 3 for complete information.

May 14 **CALIFORNIA NATIVESCAPES BOTANICAL GARDEN** Tour
Wild Animal Park Kapunda Botanical Center. 10AM. Lake Hodges Native Plant Club. 487-2269. Free.

May 15 **QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Lecture
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Creating a Non-Toxic Landscape. 2PM. FEE $2.

May 15 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** 32nd Annual Garden Show & Plant Sale
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. 9AM–5PM. Call 310/544-1948. Fee $5.

May 15 **THE HUNTINGTON** 20th Annual Benefit Plant Sale
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. "The Huntington's Hit Parade: Top 20 Plant Sale Favorites". Sun. 9AM–4PM. Call 818/405-2141. Sale free. Gate donation $5.

May 17 ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basket Class
Potato Basket (Large Flax, Reed & Rings) See May 3 for complete information. Cost $30 & $25.

May 21 **THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA** Jacaranda Walk 10:00AM, Free,
Meet at 4th and Laurel.

May 21-22 **SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY** 19th Annual Show
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM–5PM. Free.

May 24 ★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basket Class
Remedial Basketry. See May 3 for complete information. Cost $5 for nonmember & members.

May 28-29 **BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK** Show & Sale
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 11AM–4:30PM; Sun.10AM–4:30PM. Free.

May 29 **SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY** 4th EPICON IV Conference
Holiday Inn, Mission Valley. Reservation/Information/Sales Tables Call 565-0340.

Jun. 2 **THE HUNTINGTON** First Thursday Garden Talk and Sale
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. "Hardy Geraniums" 2:30PM. Call 818/405-2141. Donation $5.

Jun. 2-6 **AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY** 124th National Rose Show
San Diego Princess Resort Hotel, 1404 W. Vacation Rd. Hosted by the San Diego Rose Society. Sat. 1:30–6PM; Sun. 9AM–4PM. Call 448-0321 or 453-7974. Admission $5.

Jun. 4-5 **SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** Fuchsia Show and Sale
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. & Sun. 10AM–4PM. 310/544-1948. Fee $5.

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The cover drawing is of a bromeliad, *Ananas*

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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Jun. 4-5	**SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY** 26th show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. 1–5PM; Sun. 10AM–5PM. Free.
Jun. 11	**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Seminar on Propagation 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. Propagation for Home Gardener. 1–5PM. 436-3036. FEE.
Jun. 11	**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN** Organic Gardening Seminar 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. 8:30AM–4PM. 310/544-1948. $40 Fee.
Jun. 12	**SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY** 21st Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sun. Noon–5PM. Free.
Jun. 13-20	**CONTINUING EDUCATION - RANCHO BERNARDO** Garden Safari A Tour of Gardens in Seattle, Victoria & Vancouver. Reservations by April 29th. Call 487-0464.
Jun. 14	★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Quarterly Meeting and Program Casa del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park. Dinner/Program 5:45PM. Reservations Please. 232-5762.
Jun. 15-Jul. 4	**DEL MAR FAIR** Flower & Garden Show "Lambs and Lettuce" Via de la Valle west to Fairgrounds. 10AM-12midnight daily. Parking $3. General Admission $7.
Jun. 17-19	**WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE** Show, Lectures and Sales Hanelai Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle N. Fri.& Sat 9AM–5PM; Sun. 9AM–4PM. Call 298-1356. Fee $5.
Jun. 18	★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour Seven Private Gardens. Sponsored by American Society of Landscape Architects. $40 members, $43 nonmembers. Reservations and information call 232-5762.
Jun. 18	**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** Garden Tour Self guided tour of seven gardens. Reception/Lecture/Tour information call 467-9984.
Jun. 18-19	**SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANT** Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon–5PM; Sun. 10AM–5PM. Free.
Jun. 19	**AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER** Lecture - Free Ivy Plants Del Mar Fair, O'Brien Building. Pat Hammer, National President, Ivy Society. Free Ivy Plants to children for Farther's Day. Lecture 3PM. Call for Information 436-0460.
Jun. 25-26	**LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM** Gladiolus & Flower Show 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Gladiolus and Flower Arrangement Show. Sat. 1pm–4PM; Sun. 10AM–4PM. Call 818/821-3222. Fee.
Every Wednesday	**LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM** Free Guided Tours 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Guided Walking Tours of Gardens. 11AM Call 818/821-3250.
Every Saturday	**OFFSHOOT TOURS** One-Hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park Meet in front of Botanical Lath House. Canceled for rain or less than 4 attendees. 1st Sat. History Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Tour of the Day. 10AM. Free. No reservations.
Weekends 1994	**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** Canyoneers Outdoor Program Free guided nature walks. Information & Brochure Call 232-3821 Ext. 203.
Weekly	**SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDENS** Spring Events For lectures, tours and spring garden schedule call 805/682-4726.
Weekly	**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC.** Spring Classes and Events 230 Quail Gardens Dr. Encinitas. Call for Schedules. 619/436-3036.
Weekly	**SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours Balboa Park by Organ Pavilion. Tues., Sat. & Sun.: 10AM–4PM. Donation. Free Tues. 232-2780.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Jul/Aug. issue is May. 15.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes in information which has been submitted by the organizations.

TWO BROMELIAD EVENTS

The Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park's Annual Show and Sale is May 28–29 (see page 66). Members of this nonprofit group will display their most exotic and spectacular species and hybrids for the public to enjoy. Experts will be available to answer questions. Also, a demonstration on how to pot new plants will be presented on Saturday at 2:00pm and Sunday at 1:00pm.

A World Bromeliad Conference, sponsored by the San Diego Bromeliad Society, will be taking place June 15–19 (see above for public days). Details we've received on this meeting are sketchy, but plants for sale are expected to be from all over the USA and foriegn countries—provided that they clear Customs.

ROSE CONVENTION

As part of the American Rose Society National Convention (June 2-6), a National Rose Show will be held on June 4-5 (see page 66). Top national and international competitors will exhibit over five thousand roses. There will be over one hundred flower arrangements prepared with roses from the best local and national exhibitors.

A rose fragrance contest is open to any local rose grower. The winner will receive one hundred raffle tickets for two round-trip tickets to Paris. (Deadline for entries is 10:30am, Friday, June 3.) Seven programs on rose culture will be offered by experts. There will be an extensive trade show, hours Saturday, 10:00am–6:00pm and Sunday, 9:00am–6:00pm. J.L.C.



LANDSCAPE TRAINING AT LAS COLINAS WOMEN'S DETENTION CENTER

by CONNIE BECK

IN JULY OF 1989 I was given the opportunity to start a landscape maintenance training program at Las Colinas Women's Detention Facility in Santee. The Sheriff's Department provided me with a generous starting budget, a barren sunbaked corner of the weed-infested facility grounds, and fifteen suspicious women inmates. Together we immediately began construction on a greenhouse that was soon followed by a shadehouse. We cleaned up an old shed and filled it with shovels, hoes and lawnmowers. Over the space of a few months we worked our way around the facility repairing irrigation lines to bring water back to empty flower beds. Stakes that had been tied to trees fifteen years before, we cut loose. Gradually shrubs and flowers replaced the weeds and gopher mounds. Four years later as you walk through the facility it looks like a college campus instead of Chernobyl due to the efforts of more than seven hundred inmates who have passed through the program so far.

The program was established as a cooperative effort between the Sheriff's Department and Grossmont Union High School District. Originally it was offered as a ROP class but it is presently administered by Santana Adult Education. As instructor for the class, I meet with the inmates for three hours every morning to teach them landscape maintenance procedures. Lawns are mowed, trees are pruned, flower beds are weeded. Other inmates take care of the greenhouse and shadehouse plants on a daily basis. Each afternoon the same inmates meet with me for two hours of classroom instruction. I teach twenty areas of competency including propagation, fertilizers, weed and disease control, design, planting techniques, etc. It takes an inmate about four months to complete the course and receive a full certificate with a six page resume, but lesser certificates are given for partial training after as little as six weeks of class.

The expenses of the program are paid by the Inmate

Welfare Trust Fund that is money generated from the sale of snacks and toiletries to the inmates themselves. Since the nursery produces a large volume of trees, shrubs and flowers each year, every effort is made to donate these to public facilities for use. Regular donations are made to various county parks, the City of Santee, Quail Gardens, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies. At present Engelmann oaks are being grown for the Cara Knott Foundation, pinyon pines are being grown for the Campo Indian Reservation, and dozens of flats of California redbud trees are being grown for numerous county parks.

Job training is not the only goal of this program. I am a member of the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Horticultural therapy is a little known aspect of the horticultural industry that uses gardening as a way to improve people's health and mental attitudes. Stress reduction and behavioral modification are two important goals of this program. It has been documented that working with plants has a tendency to lower blood pressure and increase feelings of well being. Inmates frequently express their pleasure in being able to hoe weeds or dig trenches to work off stress and feelings of anger. Others especially enjoy the nurturing aspects of caring for nursery plants. I like to draw parallels between organic gardening practices and a healthier, drug free life for the inmates after release.

An important part of the class revolves around the compost pile. All organic materials generated from pruning and mowing are composted as well as a large percentage of the kitchen waste. Compost is passively managed by spreading the organic materials in six inch layers separated by thin layers of dirt or finished compost. The pile is not turned but it is watered during prolonged dry periods. The pile gradually migrates around the yard as it is added to on one side and finish compost taken from the other side. The finish compost is used as mulch in the planted areas of the facility and to fill new beds. The most significant use of the compost, however, is in creating the potting soil used in the nursery. The finished compost is sifted and then mixed fifty-fifty with perlite and used as the planting media for all container plants one gallon size and larger.

The inmates are presently working on an experiment in composting. Two 4 x 4 foot piles are being constructed in order to evaluate the effectiveness of a commercial compost bioactivator. This same experiment is also being used to try an old German composting technique called *hugelkultur* that calls for planting on top of a pit compost pile.

In teaching the various subjects, whether it is stressing the use of compost and natural organics in gardening or teaching selective pruning to preserve the health and natural integrity of trees and shrubs, I try to point out the benefits of a natural healthy lifestyle free of chemical dependency for the inmates as well as the plants. It was one of my inmates who first pointed out that the compost pile can be seen as a metaphor for their lives. Compost takes a pile of garbage and waste and turns it into something valuable and useful. The training program at Las Colinas offers the inmates a chance to claim a different way of life for themselves after release. □

CONNIE BECK is an instructor in vocational horticulture and Landscape and Nursery Management. She has a B.A. in Anthropology from Stanford University. As a landscape designer she specializes in low maintenance and low water use gardens.

Gleanings . . .

You can grow a pineapple plant just like the one on our cover. Cut the top off a grocery-store pineapple leaving about one to two inches of the fruit attached to the green top leaves. Trim the outer skin off the bottom half and place the cut surface in water in a jar. It will take at least a quart jar. Be sure you keep the base of the plant in contact with the water. In a short time, roots will grow. Then place the plant in a pot of planting mix, keep it warm and moist, and in time you will see a small stem growing out of the top. Soon you will have a three to five inch pineapple on that stem. (See page 76.)

WHITEFLY INFESTATION . . .

As yet, there have not been any reports of bad whitefly infestations. Last year was a very bad year and everyone was exchanging tips on how to control them. Most found that a daily early morning spray with cold water was quite effective. Others recommended weekly drenching with dilute dish soap in the cold water. Just heard a new cure—use a sticky yellow trap to attract the whiteflies. Paint 5″ x 8″ (approximately) 1/4″ plywood or masonite boards with a bright yellow paint. When dry, coat with a mixture of one part petroleum jelly (vaseline) to one part mineral oil or detergent. Place the sticky traps near the infected plants, or plants that were formerly badly infected. The traps can be hung, mounted on stakes or placed on the ground. When the boards become covered with dead insects and debris, they can be washed off and recoated.

CARLSBAD RANUNCULUS FIELDS . . .

If you haven't been up to see the world-famous ranunculus fields in Carlsbad (adjacent to I-5 at Palomar Airport Road) you still have a chance to see them. (We get many calls at the Floral office from visitors asking for directions to the fields.) The ranunculus should be blooming until mid-May. You can take pictures and purchase blooms. BJ

CONTEMPLATING THE LOTUS

by FREDRIK LILJEBLAD

AS WITH HUMANS, CERTAIN plants have a habit of hogging the limelight. Thus, the admittedly splendid water lily (*Nymphaea* spp.) seems to be the inevitable focus of the water gardener's attention, with the lotus (*Nelumbo* spp.) getting relatively short shrift in both pond and print. On closer inspection, however, the lotus surpasses water lilies in a number of areas. The velvety, blue-green foliage is held well above the surface of the water on supple stems, creating a much more interesting play of light than the flat, leathery leaves of water lilies. Perhaps it's just the indoctrination of centuries of Asian art works, but the tall flowers with their slightly pointed, inward-curving petals carry an authority and a grandeur that even the most exquisite water lily has a hard time matching. If water lilies are the peacocks of aquatic horticulture, then lotuses are its swans.



While it's true that established water gardens are probably the lowest maintenance item in the landscape, there is a bit more to lotus culture than potting the tuber up and plopping it into a pool. More importantly, lotus culture differs in some small but significant ways from that of water lilies. Firstly, the lotus tuber usually has several extremely brittle sections, so care must be taken not to break them apart. Beyond this, almost all growth issues from a slender, equally brittle, green point at one end of the last tuber section. This is the "growing tip," and if it is damaged or broken off, that's the end of your lotus—and at an average price of $30.00-$40.00 per tuber, that's the unkindest cut of all. It's important to order and plant lotuses as early as possible, because they deeply resent any repotting once spring growth has started. One recourse for late starters is to buy potted lotuses at local nurseries. A good quality lotus tuber should at least be the size of a big banana. Don't get fobbed off with a thumb-thick runner which, if it grows at all, will take a couple of years to get established.

Most lotus plants need a large tub—at least 18 inches wide. Some authorities maintain that you should avoid any rectangular containers. If a growing lotus tuber encounters a corner it may stop growing or even die, while it would presumably follow the curve of a round tub. I can't vouch for this myself, having always, coincidentally, used round tubs, but better to err on the side of caution. You'll also need heavy clay garden soil for potting. Fill the tub to within 4 inches of the top. With a broom handle or other similar device, poke two holes about 6 inches deep near the sides of the tub. Push one fertilizer tablet (available from any aquatic nursery) into each hole and cover with soil. If your aquatic nursery suggests more fertilizer, follow their instructions—the lotus is a greedy feeder and is hard to overfeed. It will also require additional feeding each month during the growing season.

Place the tuber horizontally on the soil surface with the growing tip pointing *upward*. *Barely* cover the tuber with additional soil (no more than an inch or two), leaving the growing tip exposed. Cover the surface of the tub with a thin layer of coarse sand, again avoiding the growing tip. This will keep the soil from muddying the water. If you have koi in your pool, you'll need to use something to keep them from invading the potting soil in their endless search for food. Try building a "tomato cage" of plastic-covered hardware cloth, letting it extend to just an inch or two below the water surface. Initially, a lotus should have only a maximum of 4 inches (as little as 2 is acceptable) of water covering the top of the tub. Prop the tub up with bricks or concrete blocks to

achieve this. If a lotus is planted too deeply at the outset it will (at best) sulk, or (at worst) rot. As it begins to send out leaves, you can *gradually* lower it to a final depth of *no more than* 8 inches.

Beyond the planting depth, there are other requirements neither aquatic nurseries nor books seem to address. Light—i.e. full sun—is an essential for almost all aquatic plants, but in addition to that, the lotus thrives with as much *heat* as possible. If your summer temperatures seldom reach into the 80's, you'll have few flowers unless you can somehow provide heat. This is one of the reasons that many San Francisco gardeners find the lotus a shy bloomer. Within reason, then, try to locate your lotus where it will have as much reflected heat as possible—a particularly important consideration for San Diego's coastal fog-belt gardeners. One way to achieve this (although not usually recommended because of the possibility of excessive algae growth) is to leave a generous amount of water surface exposed. While the usual rule-of-thumb is 60% coverage, 50% or even less, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the lotus, helps build up heat. Inland gardeners, of course, don't have to resort to such stratagems.

Another important point is that while water lilies *prefer* still water, lotus plants strongly dislike anything else. If you do have a fountain or waterfall in your pool, be sure to locate the lotus as far from it as physically possible. One other little idiosyncrasy of the lotus is its tendency to not bloom the first year after planting. Although they will continue to bloom steadily from June to October for decades, you can't usually count on lotuses for a quick summer effect. The Chinese, probably the world's greatest connoisseurs of the lotus, provide many of the necessary growing conditions by frequently planting the tubers in huge urns of glazed pottery. Some very handsome examples of these are available at local nurseries and can provide a stunning focal point in the garden—particularly if you want to try out a lotus before planning a real water garden. Gaudier versions of these urns, if your taste or garden can digest them, are available at stores specializing in Chinese artifacts.

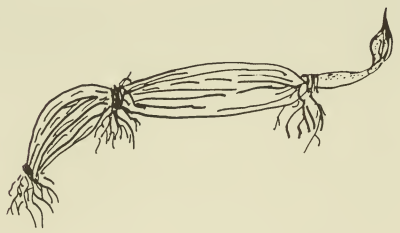
If you haven't been turned off by all the above caveats (and don't be—lotuses are incomparable and worth every bit of effort), here comes the good news: there are some perfectly stunning lotus colors. In fact, except for blues and purples (for that you'll have to grow tropical water lilies), they cover the entire spectrum. Aside from the most common pastel pink and pure white, there is also a stunning deep, carmine red lotus that once was sold as 'Peking Rubrum', but now usually goes by the more straightforward 'Red Lotus'. 'Album Striatum', also known as 'Empress', is snow white with very distinct, deep carmine edging on each petal. A similar, though dwarf-sized, lotus from Japan (with deep pink rather than carmine edging) is called 'Chawan Basu'. Another dwarf from Japan is 'Momo Botan' (the name means "peach blossom peony"), and is a very double, deep rose pink of a slightly warmer shade than is usually found in a lotus. Both 'Momo Botan' and 'Chawan Basu' are the perfect choice for tub culture. Yet another Japanese hybrid is 'Shiroman', a double white that has a creamy tint to it. 'Rosea Plena' is a double pink, paler and slightly "bluer" than 'Momo Botan' and is very easy to grow.

For pure yellow, a native American lotus, *Nelumbo lutea*, is available. Although not so striking as its Asiatic "cousin" (*Nelumbo nucifera*), *Nelumbo lutea* does add yellow to the color range. Perhaps the most exquisite of all is another candidate for tub culture, a small white lotus whose slightly translucent petals are more quilled than other types, hence its popular name "tulip" lotus. The hauntingly graceful flowers bear an uncanny resemblance to the camellia 'Magnoliiflora' ('Hagoromo'). My personal favorite, however, is the sumptuous 'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum', which progressively changes color from deep pink to pale yellow with a pink blush.

For flower arrangers, the lotus, with its inherently sculptural qualities, provides striking material for arrangements. Since the flowers are open from shortly after dawn to midafternoon, use this arranger's trick to keep them open for evening viewing (it works outdoors, too, if you want to take the trouble): melt some paraffin in a double boiler, when tepid but still liquid, apply a few drops with an eye dropper at the inside base of each petal where it meets the seed pod. The flowers will then remain constantly open. Despite the extra effort, lotuses are unforgettable, and once you've grown them you're sure to be addicted for life.□

FREDRIK LILJEBLAD has been a professional writer for over twenty years. He is the author of numerous textbooks on language learning and cookery, as well as a producer of educational videos. He has gardened in climates as diverse as Sweden, England, Thailand, and Japan.

Growing tip



Tuber, greatly reduced

THE ROSE MALLOW

Hibiscus moscheutos

by PETER DARGUSCH

THE MALLOW FAMILY, *MALVACEAE,* is a varied group of plants that include the commercial cotton, the food bearing okra and the ornamental hibiscus. *Hibiscus* is the largest genus in this family, and have been grown for food, fiber and medicinal purposes. Most are grown as ornamentals. One such ornamental, *H. moscheutos,* can be found growing in a garden area located behind the Botanical Building in Balboa Park. These are not the usual tropical hibiscus we see in Southern California and Hawaii that are varieties of *H. rosa-sinensis.*



H. moscheutos is also known as wild cotton, the rose mallow, and the swamp mallow. Native to the marshes in the eastern United States, this hibiscus is a herbaceous perennial. In San Diego, the plants begin to grow in March, when multiple tender shoots emerge. They grow in an erect shrub-like form, reaching heights of four to size feet or more, depending on sun, soil, water and feeding conditions. Being hydrophilic they do well with ample regular watering. Feeding can begin in the fall, when bone meal is worked into the soil around the root areas. After growth starts in the spring, periodic feeding (every six weeks or so) with a balanced fertilizer keeps the plants growing and blooming. Mulching with organic compost benefits the plants greatly by aiding in moisture retention, weed control, and the slow release of nutrients as compost decomposes.

Sun and heat loving, *H. moscheutos,* are best grown in full sun, but light shade is tolerated. Blooms last throughout the summer. The spectacular five petaled flowers are huge and colorful. Blooms are in shade of pink, deep red, white and bicolor pink and white. The flowers have a dark red eye in the center and can reach a size of up to a foot in diameter. Dead or fading flowers should be removed to keep the new blooms coming or from having seed pods form. The foliage is attractive; the leaves are broadly ovate. Being deciduous, the plants stop growing in the fall. In San Diego's mild climate, the plants are hardy, and the roots will survive the winter.

New plants can be started from seed, but seed taken from hybrids may not be genetically true. They can also be propagated by taking stem cuttings and by diving a portion of the crown with a root and plant attached.

Snails can be a problem, especially to the young shoots. Applying methaldehyde when growth begins can solve this problem. Snails can be hand picked off larger plants. Other pests observed are aphids and whitefly. Overhead sprinkling discourages these pests. Periodically hosing off the plants (including the undersides of leaves) helps as well. Insecticidal soap can be used or, if necessary, pesticides such as diazinon or malathion.

When the plants stop growing in the fall and begin to dieback, they should be cut to the ground. The roots will remain dormant until spring when the cycle begins anew. □

PETER DARGUSCH is a City of San Diego Groundsman-Gardener.

Editors Note: Disco Belle Hybrid seeds are available from catalogues. These plants, covered with huge parasol-like flowers, make a quick summer display. If planted on 2-foot centers they will make a dramatic mass or hedge. The plant blooms continuously, even in hot weather if given adequate water.

LIVING FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS

by BARBARA S. JONES

TIRED OF THE UTILITARIAN look of your wooden, concrete or chain link fence? Would you like it to be part of your garden? Well, there is a solution—plant it.

There are many plants that can be used to enhance an existing fence. One must decide what use or effect is desired before a plant can be selected, and if the planting is to be temporary or permanent. The fence must be examined to determine the amount of sunshine, wind, and animal or human interference. These may seem simple points, but the success of your planting depends on proper plant selection.

Consider a vine. A twining vine can climb a chain link or lattice fence, but will be unable to cling to a concrete or wooden fence. Clinging vines can be used on most fences, but can damage the surface.

Most evergreen vines need regular trimming but are easy to grow. The ivies are popular and can be used on all fences. Algerian Ivy (*Hedera canariensis)* is fast growing, but can cause serious problems in Southern California. Tiny stems grow through cracks or knotholes on wood and into cracks in cement or brick fences. Within five years these tiny stems can become huge 6″ diameter stems that split fences and crack walls. The thatch (underneath dead part) provides a cozy home for roof rats, too. Several other ivies are better choices. 'Ripple', which was developed in San Diego, grows quickly but has smaller leaves and stems. (It also makes a good ground cover.)

Bougainvilleas are hardy evergreen vines in Southern California and are covered with colorful bracts most of the year. Climbing roses have beautiful flowers with a wonderful perfume. The 'Cecile Brunner' has been a popular rose in San Diego since the early 1900's. For most of the year it is covered with tiny pink flowers. It is a lusty grower, is somewhat disease free, and has spines that discourage man and beast. Once established, all these vines use very little water, need minimal care, and are somewhat disease free. Your local nurseryman can recommend other low-water-using vines that will do well.

Honeysuckle *(Lonicera)* vines grow quickly and produce fragrant flowers for most of the year. The root system is very invasive and may cause problems in nearby plantings. Morning glory *(Ipomoea leari)* is another fast grower. The vines bear many blue flowers for months. Both plants were "old time favorites" and were usually used on back alley fences. There are new honeysuckles that are less invasive and have larger flowers. These and other flowering vines are available at local nurseries. Many of them need regular watering to flower well.

If it is preferable to have shade or covering in the summer only, a deciduous vine should be chosen. The wisterias have spectacular flowers. Although sometimes difficult to get started, wisterias will live for years and require very little care or water once established. Edible grapes are attractive vines, and because heat is collected in a fence, good fruit can be produced even when planted in borderline grape country.

Dramatic emphasis can be given to a wall by espaliering trees or shrubs. The form is determined and controlled by trimming certain portions of twigs and branches annually. Pyracantha is easy to grow, uses little water, is somewhat disease free, and is attractive with or without its brilliant red berries. On a solid wall, a framework for support should be used.

If a "living fence" is preferred, there are many shrubs that can be used. Unfortunately, two of the old-standby favorites, eugenia and some of the cypresses, have become infected with diseases that are difficult to eliminate. Hedge widths can be controlled by heavy pruning. (A width of 3′ is about the narrowest that a hedge can be trimmed.) This should be considered when planting so the hedge will not grow into a neighbor's yard or over the sidewalk or driveway. If the hedge is to be used as a barrier, some type of fencing should be built at the time of planting. If pets or small children are to be contained, a heavy wire fence, 18″ to 24″ high, supported by metal poles, can be built. If it is to be used for traffic protection, heavy cement poles with chains can be constructed. In about two years, no one will know the hidden barrier exists.

There are many plants available that will make good hedges. The bottlebrushes (*Callistemon or Melaleuca)* and oleanders *(Nerium oleander)* are easy to grow and maintain and are low water users. The hibiscus and pittosporums are denser and do not require too much water. The Meyer lemon *(Citrus limonia)* is popular, because it bears fruit about eight months of the year. Unfortunately, it can look a bit scrawny. Natal plum (*Carissa grandiflora)* makes a dense hedge, has edible fruit, and, best of all, has long thorns that discourage invasions. Indian hawthorne (*Raphiolepis indica)* is covered with light pink flowers all spring.

All these plants are easy to grow, inexpensive and always available. There is an extensive list of useable plants that can provide seasonal color or brilliant flowers or fruit that are sold in Southern California. Whatever you choose, you should be pleased with your "good neighbor fence" California style. □

THE TOWER OF JEWELS

by CATHERINE L. ZINSKY

THERE EXIST ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE species in the *Echium* genus, many of which are very popular in California, especially as most are drought tolerant, generally being natives of the Canary Islands. Perhaps the most popular is *Echium fastuosum*, more commonly referred to as the pride of Madeira. My favorite, however, is *Echium wildpretii*, appropriately dubbed the "tower of jewels".



E. wildpretii is rarely seen in cultivation, probably due to its growth habits (it's a large biennial) and a pitiful availability at nurseries. The later should be rectified, as the tower of jewels is not only striking, but formidable, and could actually suit a number of home gardens, especially for those seeking specimens that are unconventional, yet singular.

The tower of jewels in my garden become tall, to 11 feet. The specimens I saw at the Huntington Botanical Gardens last spring ('93) reached only 2½ feet. I have well-composted soil. The *E. wildpretii* at the Huntington were struggling among cacti in the succulent garden. Obviously soil quality can make a difference.

E. wildpretii seems almost metamorphic because of the changes it undergoes during its life span. Its leaves are grey, hirsute (hairy), and shaped like lances. The seedlings look like stars. As the plant develops and enlarges, the number of leaves increases dramatically, erupting horizontally. At the end of its first year it somewhat resembles a large grey sea urchin of about 2 feet in diameter, the lance-like leaves comprising the spines. Once stimulated by nature to flower, its shape again changes. A large torpedo-like projection begins to rise from its center. Side branching from between the sword-like leaves can occur at this time, though no side-branching will develop from the center stalk itself.

This center column reaches further and further upward, and at one point will begin to erupt into pink to rose colored flowers. It will bear zillions of flowers. The stalk is large: the flowers are small. In the full glory of bloom it very much resembles its name.

Full sun and excellent drainage are essential. So, too, is root space, as the tap root of *E. wildpretii* also serves to counterbalance its top weight, so must reach deeply. One in my yard once toppled over precisely because it did not have root space. (It was a "freebie" growing in a rock crevice.) Once established, it resents transplanting.

As a biennial, *E. wildpretii* will complete its life in two years. After flowering, it dies. Not to worry. All those zillions of flowers—which, by the way, attract bees—develop into seed, enough to furnish all the gardeners in the county! I usually just watch for the grey stars to emerge in my beds, then transplant before they become too fond of their original landing pad. One or two always elude me.

Echium wildpretii is certainly a back of the border specimen. Nevertheless, no one who visits your garden will fail to ask you about it. They don't in mine. Happy gardening! □

CATHERINE L. ZINSKY is a garden writer for national magazines.

BROMELIADS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

by MARY SIEMERS

DID YOU KNOW THE PINEAPPLE (genus *Ananas*) belongs to the bromeliad family (*Bromeliaceae*)? It was one of the first fruits introduced into Europe by Christopher Columbus, who discovered it on his second trip to the New World in 1493. These plants are now grown throughout the tropics and the fruit is one of our greatest delicacies. This genus consists of seven different species. Most are large terrestrials, desirable as ornamentals for sunny gardens in subtropical areas, and the smaller species make a very desirable pot plant.

One of the most decorative ornamental forms is *Ananas comosus* 'Variegatus'. It is striped longitudinally with stunning bright colors of shocking pink, green, and cream. It bears an edible and colorful pineapple with a "topknot" of variegated leaves. The best color is obtained when grown in bright light.

In the Americas we find bromeliads all the way from Virginia in the north to southern Argentina. In nature most bromeliads are found growing on trees as epiphytes. Their roots are used mainly for support and derive no sustenance from the tree. (They are not parasites.) Some bromeliads grow as terrestrials on the ground while others grow on rocks and cliff faces. They adapt well to different environments, are drought resistant, do not require much care, are pretty much pest free, and do very well in Southern California.

Bromeliads are divided into groups called genera (singular, genus). Different genera require varying amounts of light. They can be used as landscape, or to enhance your patio, or indoors to beautify your home. They require good drainage, and the soil must never be allowed to become soggy. The inflorescence on most bromeliads lasts for many months and some for a few weeks. You give them so little and they reward you with so much beauty in return, making them a most enjoyable hobby.

You will be able to see these beautiful exotic plants at the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park Annual Show and Sale May 28–29 (see page 66). Proceeds from the sale will benefit our project at the San Diego Zoo, the maintenance and improvement of the Dr. Leonard Kent Bromeliad Garden that is located between the Children's Zoo and the Hummingbird Aviary. The Garden normally has about 1200 plants on display. Members of this group hold regular work sessions to keep the Garden looking beautiful and well-groomed for Zoo visitors to enjoy. □

MARY SIEMERS is a longterm bromeliad hobbyist. She has been chairman of the Bromeliad Garden at the San Diego Zoo for ten years.



Tillandsia ponderosa by Mary Siemers

MULCH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

by BETTY NEWTON

UNDER A TREE IN her yard near Steele Canyon, north of Highway 94, Sherry Davidson turns a trowel in the soil. And then again and again. Sherry has a beautiful garden with flowers and interesting greenery beneath large fruitless mulberry trees. "My neighbors call me 'The Mulch Queen'," she laughs.

Indeed, the top of this East County resident's soil is covered *4 inches deep with shredded mulch*. Digging easily, she continues, "It didn't used to be like this at all." The soil of the landscaped lot that she and her husband, John, bought four years ago is hard decomposed granite. It was impenetrable. Continual mulching and roots of new small plants have remade it.

"They've all bought their own shredders," she says of her neighbors. To an inquiry about why they don't share one machine for the neighborhood of about nine houses, Sherry pulls back, "Oh no! I keep mine busy all the time!" Excess plant material, dead leaves, trimmings are all ground up and recycled into the organic mulch which covers her gardens.

Mulch leaches humic acids and gelatinous resins which change soil structure, increasing its ability to absorb moisture and support plant life. For those who despair of the natural inland soil, the Davidsons will attest that there is hope and have confirmed success from their efforts. □

BETTY NEWTON is a garden writer and teaches adult education landscaping and flower classes in El Cajon and La Mesa.

EL MONTE GARDENS OF LAKESIDE

by MARILYN JENKINS

FOR THIRTY FIVE YEARS my husband, Elmer, and I have lived on our hillside in Lakeside. We puttered around growing both vegetables and flowers and discovered that getting plants to grow and thrive in adobe is a challenge.

The more I gardened, the more interested I became in drought tolerant plants. Considering this area's average rainfall, it made sense to take a serious look at the wide variety of plants that are particularly adapted to little rain. I began reading about our own native plants and plants from Australia, South Africa, South America, and the Mediterranean. I realized that the list of drought tolerant plants is almost endless.

I decided to include as many drought tolerant plants in our garden as time and money would permit. This idea was very exciting to me. As I spoke to others I became aware of the increasing interest in water conservation and in plants that are considered drought tolerant.

Years ago my father, Frank Gander*, had a nursery in Escondido. He maintained a display garden where the plants for sale could be seen growing in the ground. He wanted people to know what the mature plants looked like so they could make knowledgeable choices. I like the idea of a display garden. I think more people would use drought tolerant plants if they had a chance to see them full-grown and not just in cans.

When I retired in September 1992 I finally had more time to pursue a dream of opening our hillside garden to the public. El Monte Gardens of Lakeside, our display garden, is in its infancy. As these drought tolerant plants mature so will El Monte Gardens. A few plants are quite old, such as the three Aleppo Pines (*Pinus halepensis)* that we used years ago as Christmas trees and then planted out. They are now over 40 feet tall. Then there is the grevillea cultivar, developed by my father, which attracts hummingbirds and bees to its orange-red flowers. And a bougainvillea which bounces back after occasional frosts. Most of the plants including ceanothus, Geraldton waxflower (*Chamelaucium uncinatum)*, *Oenothera*, wooly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum)* and a wonderful red flowered shrub from Australia, spotted emu plant (*Eremophlia maculata)* have been planted within the past three or four years and are sizeable shrubs now.

Approximately 134 shrubs and trees are on my garden plant list. I have a nice selection of cistus (the rock roses) and many different sages. There are a variety of irises including the native Douglas iris. Wildflowers we should see this year include California poppy, painted daisy, showy blue gilia, scarlet flax, lupine, blue bells and blue flax.

Because of the adobe soil we must dig our planting holes large and deep so drainage will be adequate. Many times I thought I had a hole prepared only to find out it did not pass a drainage test. (Fill hole twice with water. If it is gone within 3 hours the second time, that is good drainage.)

Under our adobe soil there is granite. I often observe very different growth rates in identical plants. For instance, we have two Tecate cypress, one in an area where the roots can grow deeply. The other must hit rock because the difference in their height is obvious. But that is part of gardening. El Monte Gardens is educational for both visitors and owners.

We are constantly adding. This year my husband is completing a rock waterfall and fish pond where the water is recycled to conserve. We have made paths all around the garden and the plants have name tags. Visitors are invited to walk by themselves or with a guided group.

In May El Monte Gardens of Lakeside (13737 El Monte Road, Lakeside) will be open free to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon, and on Saturdays by appointment (443-6488). It is a good idea to wear walking shoes because the garden is on a slope and the paths are rustic. □

*Frank Gander served as resident naturalist for ten years at the Audubon Society's Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary in Wildcat Canon.

MARILYN JENKINS has been a member of the San Diego County Xeriscape Council, Inc. since 1989.



Oenothera



Trichostema lanatum

SOME *HARDENBERGIA, SPARMANNIA* AND *VITEX* SPECIES

by MARGE HOWARD-JONES

HARDENBERGIA (LEGUMINOSAE)—No sooner has the last Christmas display been taken down than local nurseries are bursting with the deep-violet blooms of the *Hardenbergia*, an Australian native that is perfect for Southland gardens, big and small. Just give it well drained soil and a trellis or wall to climb on and this hardy vine will be up and around in less time than it takes to remember its name.

Baron von Hugel discovered the plant in Western Australia in 1833 and named it for his sister, Countess von Hardenberg. The *Hardenbergia* is happy in sun or partial shade and doesn't need much water, but be on the lookout for spider mites and nematodes.

Down Under eucalyptus forests, or *jarrahs*, are covered in *Hardenbergia*, as are other densely vegetated scrub areas of evergreen and dwarf trees. On this side of the Pacific, it forms a light delicate pattern on low walls or over arches, or it can be pegged down as a ground cover. Tangles can be avoided by pruning it back after it blooms. In late spring, you can use tip cuttings for propagation. It also can be propagated by seed in early spring.

Clusters of small violet-blue flowers cluster amid dark-green narrow leaves on *H. comptoniana*, which has various common names, among them Western Australian coral pea. *H. violacea* offers flowers of lilac, violet, rose or white. It also was known as false sasparilla after its leaves were used as a beverage base by native Australians and early settlers. Its dark foliage is similar to *Smilax glyciphylla*, with dark-green narrow leaves in groups of two to four leaflets. Also known as vine lilac and purple coral pea, it can grow in low mounds and, like its discoverer, is a celebrated traveler.

SPARMANNIA AFRICANA (TILIACEAE)—One of Capt. Cook's many travel companions was Dr. Anders Sparmann, a Swedish botanist whose name identifies this versatile African native. Known more popularly as the African linden tree, it is an evergreen, fast growing tree or bush, which can reach 10 to 20 feet out-of-doors or remain pruned to a manageable pot size indoors.

Also known as African hemp, wild hollyhock and indoor linden, its velvety leaves and clusters of white flowers with bright yellow stamens thrive on lots of water and well drained soil. Spider mite is the main threat to its well-being.

Sparmannia flowers have a handy habit of drying intact on the vine, which makes them a popular element in dried flower arrangements. Even more helpfully, the plant welcomes severe pruning (at least every three years) and is easily propagated from cuttings!

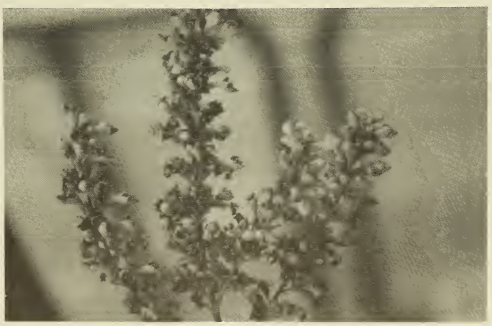
VITEX AGNUS-CASTUS (VERBENACEAE)—It looks good, it smells good and it does good—what more could be asked of a drought-tolerant plant? Common in the South, but rarely seen in Southern California, *Vitex agnus-castus* deserves more attention because of its lovely divided palmate leaves. They resemble those of fine-cut Japanese maple's.

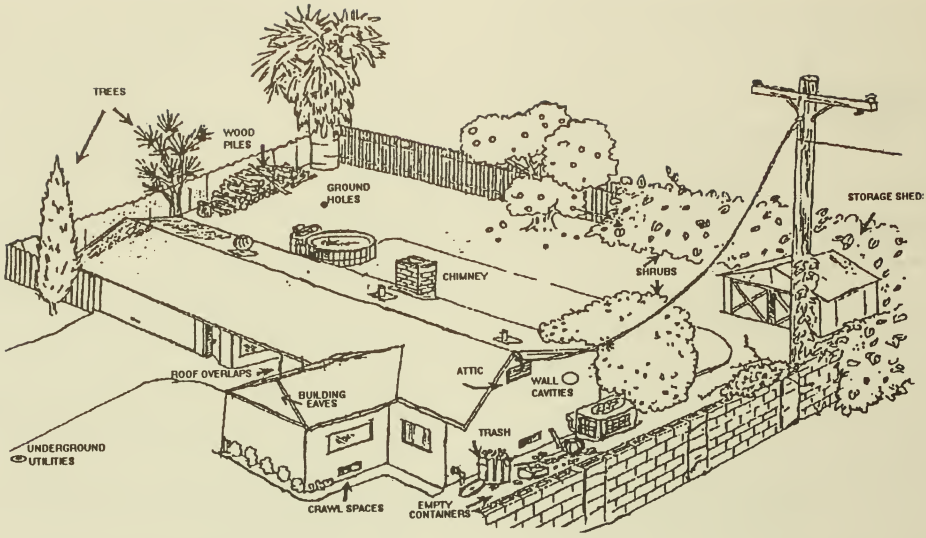
Pliny's "chaste tree" is a Mediterranean native that was a mainstay in monastery gardens. The aromatic essential oils of its leaves were used by herbalists in the treatment of "female complaints," which may account for its piquant name. The use of its small fruits as a pepper substitute has also lead to its identification as monk's pepper tree and Indian spice tree.

Such practicalities aside, this plant's profuse 7 inch floral spikes of lavender-blue in summer, framed by fans of 2 to 6 inch leaves, are what endears the deciduous *V. agnus-castus* to the California gardener . . . and local bees. It can be grown as a small tree with a multi-trunked, broad spreading shape, or as a large shrub. It is fastest growing in the warmest climates, reaching 25 feet in low desert areas and topping out at about 6 feet in the Northwest.

Soil quality is not an issue, but lots of summer heat is needed for the most intensely colored blooms. Richer soils will produce more luxuriant leaf growth, but paler flowers. Other *Vitex* varieties include: 'Alba' (white), 'Rosea' (pink), and 'Latifolia' (or *V. macrophylla*). See this plant in front of Derby-Pendleton House on Harney Street in Old Town and at Quail Gardens. □

MARGE HOWARD-JONES volunteers as a docent at Quail Botanical Gardens.





Potential Africanized Honey Bee Nesting Sites Around the Home

THE WHITE GARDEN

by CYNTHIA DRAKE

THE WHITE OR "MOON" garden has increased in popularity over the last ten years. Monochromatic gardens (gardens using one color as a theme) have historical significance. It was the rage during the late 1700's and early 1800's throughout France and England to have a solid colored garden. The true beauty and excitement come from the blend of foliage textures and color variations within the monochromatic design.

The "white" garden is sometimes referred to as the "moon" garden in horticultural literature. At night the white flowers and foliage reflect the moon's glow giving it a life of its own. You can easily find your way through a white garden during the full moon. Many landscape gardeners consider the white garden to be the most rewarding as the finished garden is a study in quiet elegance.

Plants with white flowers, or leaves, suitable for the San Diego area, depending on where you garden, can include:

Azalea 'Alaska'	Asters
Begonias	Bauhinia (Orchid Tree)
Camellia	Calla Lily
Daylily	Diosma (Breath of Heaven)
Fuchsia	Gardenia
Hibiscus	Iberis (Candytuft)
Star Jasmine	Lantana
Moraea Iris	Impatiens
Petunias	Pansies
Rose 'Iceberg'	Grey Santolina
Dusty Miller	English Lavender
Chrysanthemum	Oleander 'Blanc'
Crape Myrtle Tree	Lamium ground cover
Lamb's Ears	Yarrow
White Statice	Wisteria
Magnolia Tree	Sweet Alyssum

CYNTHIA DRAKE has a degree in landscaping and has been a landscape consultant for twenty years. She is a licensed pest control advisor, also.



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Helen La Gamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry.

TO REPOT only if necessary.

TO TAKE the time to groom your violets by removing the lower row of leaves and all flower stems.

TO SEE that you have proper soil; light, porous and with good drainage.

TO PUT all plants on wicks using a 3½ to 4 cup reservoir.

TO HAVE 12 to 14 hours of light daily.

TO HAVE proper spacing—provide room for good air circulation.

TO USE good fertilizer according to the instruction at each watering.

BEGONIAS
Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH tuberous begonias for signs of mildew, correct with dust and spray.

TO CHECK cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

TO SPRAY for insects using malathion

TO FINISH repotting where needed, use a light porous mixture.

TO FEED plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

TO WATER as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

TO CHECK tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

BONSAI
Dr. Herbert Markowitz

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DEVELOP a watering schedule, but avoid over-watering especially the pines.

TO PRUNE all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

TO SPRAY for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

TO SHAPE deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

TO CONTROL any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

TO FERTILIZE trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not over feed the pines.

TO COMPLETE the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

TO PLACE trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00 AM to prevent sunburning.

TO ROTATE trees often to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year round.

TO USE a water soluble fertilizer—preferably one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

TO CUT new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ⅓ to ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

TO CHECK plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

TO GIVE plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants, but not too wet. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

TO FERTILIZE for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

TO PROTECT the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

TO CHECK any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

TO REPOT those plants needing it: use a well draining mix, but do not overpot. Good "rule of thumb" is to allow an inch between plant and the pot.

TO REPOT seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.

TO CHECK entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

CAMELLIAS
E. C. Snooks

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START a feeding program when they finish blooming. Use an acid-type fertilizer: cottonseed meal, camellia food or liquid fish.

TO BE SURE to water well the day before feeding, never fertilize a dry plant.

TO TRANSPLANT those plants that have started their new growth.

TO REPOT those plants that have outgrown their pots. Move to one size larger pot per time.

TO MULCH plants well with redwood compost or pine needles, this helps to keep the soil uniformly moist and the weeds down.

TO PRUNE out unwanted new growth; shape and thin out center.

TO SPRAY for insects as they appear; Cygon for looper worms and aphids. Use a miticide if mites appear later.

TO ESTABLISH and maintain a uniform watering routine. Plants should never be allowed to go dry.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10) either dry or liquid.

TO SPRAY weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic, if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

TO WATER when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

TO PINCH out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

TO BE SURE to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.

TO PLANT smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.

TO PUT out snail bait and watch for other pests.

TO REMOVE wilted flowers by cutting about ¾ unless you desire seed to form.

TO TAKE CARE in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.

TO GIVE plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.

TO STAKE long spindly growth.

TO PROTECT foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

FERNS
Ray Sodomka

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale if necessary.

TO WATER thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

FUCHSIAS
William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PINCH plants for shape and bushy growth.

TO CHANGE to 5-10-10 fertilizer for lush growth and an abundance of large blooms.

TO WATCH for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by manufacturer or less, do *NOT* use an oil spray.

TO BE SURE to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.

TO CONTROL snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.
TO KEEP plants clean of debris and spent blooms.
TO TURN baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.
TO WATCH plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. During extended rainy periods, move potted plants out of the rain. Provide the best possible drainage for plants in the ground. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.
TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be used instead.
TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's direction.
TO SELECTIVELY prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scenteds because their flowers will be lost by pruning at this time.
TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings.
TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.
TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.
TO ENJOY your plants at the height of their season.

IRIS
Penny Bunker

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TRANSPLANT tall bearded after blooming.
TO ALLOW cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for awhile before planting.
TO HAVE beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.
TO WATCH for aphids. May use a systemic insecticide.
TO FEED spruias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.
TO KEEP watering all iris that are still blooming.
TO FEED Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.
TO FEED Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.
TO FEED Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO OBSERVE the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.
TO MAINTAIN pest control against red spider, mealy bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.
TO AVOID sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon, plants should be dry by nightfall.
TO REMEMBER that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

Culture of Different Genera:

Cymbidium: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°–70°optimum. Humidity 40–70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, firbark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.

Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola **and Hybrid:** Light 2400–3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°–70° optimum. Media for potting: firbark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

Phalaenopsis **and Hybrid:** Light 900–1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°–85°, humidity 50–75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides **and Hybrid:** Light 2000–3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°–70°, humidity 49–75%. Potting media: tree fern, firbark, charcoal, lava rock or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

ROSES
Dallas Runion

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP bushes well watered during hot dry days.

TO AVOID spraying with insecticides or fungicides under very hot conditions.

TO ALWAYS remove spent blooms to encourage new growth.

TO FEED with a well-balanced plant food.

TO MULCH the bushes to keep cool and save water.

TO CHECK for rose slugs and worms.

TO CONTINUE preventative spraying for mildew control.

TO CHECK for chlorosis—a pale green to yellow color in the leaves, but with dark green veins. Correct this with chelated iron or iron sulfate.

TO GIVE feedings of one ounce of Epsom salt per bush two or three times a year. This helps produce strong new canes and more vigorous growth.

NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SLACK off on watering of the drought tolerant natives. By the end of May a deep watering once every three weeks should be sufficient. Water early in the morning so there is no water on the leaves when the sun comes out. The heat of sun is greatly magnified by a molecule of water on the leaves.

TO CONSERVE water by planting drought tolerant natives.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning ⅓ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's dripline and extending out beyond the dripline a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).

TO REMOVE grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.

TO APPLY a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown rot. Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit after "June drop."

TO REMOVE any suckers growing from rootstock.

TO WASH trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.

TO SPRAY walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

VEGETABLES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes and tender herbs.

TO PLANT pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

TO APPLY nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply ⅓–½ cup of ammonium sulfate or ¼–⅓ cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.

TO CHECK plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

GREEN THUMB

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dried foliage of bulbs and tie back other foliage until it dries naturally before removing.

TO FEED azaleas and cut back dead wood.

TO PLANT gladiolus bulbs for fall bloom.

TO PINCH chrysanthemums for bushier plants with more buds in the fall.

TO PLANT summer-blooming annuals: and zinnias and marigolds for late summer bloom.

TO INVEST in blooming perennials available in June: daylilies, agapanthus, Shasta daisies, etc.

TO PLANT annuals: asters, calendulas, cosmos, impatiens, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, etc.

HERBS — PLANTS LINKED WITH HISTORY

by BARBARA S. JONES

HERBS ARE CONSIDERED AMONG the most versatile and valuable of all the garden plants. Beautiful, flavorsome and fragrant, they have been grown for thousands of years for their mystic, culinary, medicinal and cosmetic qualities. When the early colonists arrived in North America, among their most treasured possessions were herbs. When the later immigrants arrived they brought the herbs that were important to their culture. The Native Americans introduced the newcomers to their herbs. Today herbal traditions are as strong as ever and with the recent emphasis on eliminating fat from the diet, many are shifting from butters to herbs to flavor their foods. Fresh herbs usually taste better, so there has been an increased interest in growing herbs.

Although herbs were given special places in medieval gardens both in Europe and the Middle East, in modern gardens herbs are grown virtually anywhere. Many are especially suitable for container growing and do well in patios, on balconies and on windowsills.

For the begining herb gardener who wants to experiment with aromatic seasoning some of the tried, tested and easy to grow herbs are:

Basil (sweet green) — tastes like a mixture of mint and cloves

Chervil — has a delicate flavor of anise

Chives — delicate onion flavor, good fresh

Dill — delicate, distinct

Fennel — anise-flavored bulbs

Common Marjoram — like oregano (spaghetti sauce and chile)

Sweet Marjoram — zesty oregano flavor

Sage — used in fowl and meat preparation

Thyme — needed for dressings

Parsley — rich in vitamins, good raw or cooked □

BARBARA JONES has been home gardening all her life. Her interest led her to majoring in botany in college.



WATERCRESS

HOMEGROWN MESCLUN SALAD

THE NEWEST TREND IN home gardening, whether one uses open ground, raised beds, or containers is a salad mix. Mixes are sometimes called "mesclun." Catalogues are offering special seed mixes, but the main idea is that all of the plants are sown, grown and harvested together. (The traditional dressing is a drizzle of oil and vinegar mixed with some Dijon mustard.)

The original mesclun (the word means "mix" in the dialect of Nice, France) also is know as "field salad." The original must include arugula and lettuce. An American mesclun must contain some zesty, piquant, tart or tangy greens mixed with lettuce and all except the lettuce must be harvested when they are tender, young and small (three inches tall). Some examples are: endive, chicory, dandelion, cress, mustard, chervil, purslane and arugula. All grow quickly and can be ready to harvest in a few weeks. They can be cut back several times, too. Older plants become very bitter. By mid-summer the plants in the inland, hotter areas must be grown in partial shade. (Winter is our traditional salad greens growing period.) Even the lettuces can be grown near the coast in mid-summer using a 50% shade cloth cover. Wherever you live you should be able to get at least one mesclun crop before the really hot summer weather sets in.

To grow your mesclun prepare clay soil by mixing some organic matter into the soil and tilling well. Silty or sandy soil needs some organic matter and some fertilizer mixed in. Containers can be filled with commercial potting soil. Soak the soil a few days before planting. To plant make shallow furrows, sprinkle in the seed, tamp down lightly, and water with a fine spray. The soil must be kept moist, not wet, until the seeds sprout. If you really enjoy the tart greens, small plantings every two to three weeks should supply an adequate amount.

Most Americans do not like the very tart greens. A tasty "American mesclun" can be made by using the red and green lettuces, watercress, and the various lightly-bitter tasting chicories. Tarter greens can gradually be added, one at a time, until a mix you like is found. Start with a few leaves of the ever-present, young, tender dandelions we take out of our lawns. Even though they are cultivated for salads in many parts of the world, most Southern Californians consider them a pesky weed. This salad might change your mind. □

Barbara Jones

DANDELION

Taraxacum officinale, Composite Family

by BARBARA S. JONES

THE DANDELION IS USUALLY considered to be a weed, but it is cultivated for greens and as an autumn and spring vegetable. The gardener who continually digs out dandelions will find it hard to believe that seeds are available from seed catalogues. Apparently plants grown with adequate food and water from these select seeds have wider leaves that are milder and tastier. (Some seeds labeled Italian dandelions are really a form of chicory.)

Dandelions are not all bad. The flowers are a lovely golden-yellow. Children love to blow the huge "puffball" seedheads. Every mother has fond memories of bouquets gathered by her children and presented with love. Bees love dandelions and will be attracted to a garden that needs bees for pollination of other plants.

The leaves should be gathered for greens in the early spring before they flower or before the stalks get long. It tastes somewhat like chicory but more bitter. Dandelion gourmets recommend blanching the leaves to make them sweeter. This is done by placing boxes over the growing plants. When cooking, the leaves will taste better if they are brought to a boil, drained, and then boiled again in fresh water. Many claim that the addition of lemon juice improves the flavor. The raw leaves have two times as much beta carotin as beet greens, as much iron as spinach, and calcium equal to turnip greens. They are classified as a potherb and have been traditionally dropped into pots of carrots and onions to make a soup.





The large taproot is edible and is easier to dig in the early spring. It will be larger in the fall. To eat them, remove the skin, cut crosswise, parboil in a bit of water, and saute in butter. (It is supposed to taste like parsnips.) The roots can be dried and ground as a chicory substitute. (Ground chicory is added to coffee to give that special flavor enjoyed in New Orleans.) For this purpose the roots can be gathered in the spring or fall. It takes about a month to dry naturally, but can be dried in an oven set at the lowest setting for three to four hours. The root will turn dark coffee color and can be ground and used in the same manner as coffee.

Dandelion tea and the famous golden dandelion wine of history are made from the flowers. Any recipe book of homemade wines will have a recipe. Ask at the local library for a copy.

Next time you dig-out a pile of dandelions from your lawn, wash a few and try eating them. You may find that you have a hidden treasure not a pesky weed. □

THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

PLANTING MEMORIAL JACARANDA TREES in public places around San Diego is one of the major ongoing projects of the more than seventy members of The Village Garden Club. Recent events have included ceremonial plantings in East County and in the public park at Mt. Soledad and Mission Bay Park near the Hilton Hotel. An annual Jacaranda Walk, usually held in early May is a major event for this club project. Club members and the public are invited to donate money to the club toward the purchase of more trees to be planted on public property throughout San Diego.

The club was founded in 1974 with fourteen members from the La Jolla Garden Club and the Newcomers Club. Since then it has met at the La Jolla Methodist Church meeting hall and in member's homes. Highlights of the year include the annual Fall, Holiday, and May meetings in member's homes. The Design Committee, consisting of active floral arrangers, decorate the homes. This adds to the festive atmosphere and increases members awareness of the finer points of flower arranging.

The club offers activities for both the gardener and flower arranger. Meetings consist of a lecture on either a horticultural or floral arranging topic followed by lunch. After lunch a workshop is held relating to the meeting topic. Occasionally meetings are held at local gardening areas of interest, such as Quail Botanical Gardens or in a beautiful garden of a member. Members bring their gardens to the meetings by sharing cuttings from their gardens at the Ways and Means table.

There are several members who are qualified flower show judges. These judges freely share their expertise with members at the meetings and workshops. This results in high active participation in local events such as Art Alive at the San Diego Museum of Art.

The club meets on the fourth Thursday of every month, September through May, at the La Jolla United Methodist Church. Meetings start at 10:00AM. Current president Pat Garrick invites the public to attend and become active members. □

SUSAN FOX interviews the presidents of the clubs and societies for information on their organizations for this feature. Because of the activities of these organizations, many of the best horticultural features are developed and maintained.

The Jacaranda Walk will take place Saturday, May 21st at 10:00AM. Meet at Fourth and Laurel, free.

DEL MAR FAIR, JUNE 15–JULY 4

WHEN THE DEL MAR FAIR returns this year much of this year's Flower and Garden Show will be moved from inside the O'Brien Pavilion to an adjacent outdoor site. This affords plantings the luxury of natural sunlight and the show more space for bigger and better exhibits.

Several firsts will debut this year: condo, balcony, and patio garden displays will showcase the use of hanging baskets and containers to decorate small spaces. An information booth will be staffed.

Installed lighting will line walkways and miniature lights will twinkle in trees and shrubbery. Landscape exhibits will be judged on the artistic use of lighting, as well.

The San Diego County Water Authority plans a spectacular exhibit in recognition of its 50th anniversary. A Blue Horizon Landscape exhibit will simulate a rain forest, and the San Diego County Flower and Plant Association display will depict the life of a flower—from field to retail shop to home. Officials anticipate more than sixty entries to this year's Fair by perennial favorite exhibitors.

As in year's past, cuttings of gladiolus, dahlias, orchids, and regular and miniature roses will be judged every other day. Fresh-cut flowers will be available for purchase, new deliveries each day.

HIS NOSE KNOWS. Be it a dahlia or a rose—if it grows, Edgar Engert knows how to show it off. Engert is the superintendent of the Flower and Garden Show—"Lambs and Lettuce" is this year's theme.

This is Engert's fifth year as superintendent. He is also a florist and owns Del Mar Floral with his wife, Renate, and has worked for twenty-five years as a special product salesman for the Paul Ecke Ranch.

Engert's appreciation of things in bloom began when he was a child growing up in the German countryside near Kaiserslautern. He emigrated to the USA in his early twenties to study horticulture. "I like being around plants and flowers because they make people happy and I enjoy people and beautiful things," he says.

Flower and Garden Show hours are 9:00AM to 10:00PM Sunday-Thursday and 9:00AM to 11:00PM Friday-Saturday. Admission prices to the Fair are: $7.00 for adults, $4.00 for age sixty-two and up, $2.00 for ages six through twelve, free under six years. □ NEWS RELEASES

PAMPAS GRASS

by ROBERT HORWITZ

IF YOU HAVE A lot of space and are searching for a hardy plant that has lots of showiness and is drought resistant, you might consider the pampas grass. It has the formal fancy name of *Cortaderia selloana*. Pampas echoes of Argentina where it originates. In our Southern California area, it can be considered as an evergreen. The informal name of pampas grass indicates that it is of the grass family. This is amply demonstrated by looking at the long narrow leaves that can be many feet long when the plant reaches maturity. These leaves are tough and have a fine saw-tooth edge all along them which makes the trimming of them a cantankerous thing. You should wear gloves and long sleeves if you want to trim it or cut it down.

In a three month growing season, the pampas grass plant can grow from a wispy thing in a small pot to a wavy giant of eight or so feet in height. To top off this fast e..uberant growth are plume-like flower clusters on long reed-like stems of white or cream color. These flower clusters make wonderful cut and dried elements for dried flower arrangements. They can add a dramatic flair to an arrangement with the long stem and the light feather-like plumes on the top. The plumes can be dyed various colors to match the decor of the arrangement. If left on the plant, these plume affairs mature into seeds that get distributed by the wind to the whole neighborhood. Since the plant grows in almost any soil, dry, good, or soaking wet, these errant seed can come up almost anywhere.

During the winter, the huge plant should be cut back severely, being sure that you take precautions for its abrasive qualities. Cut it down to the roots and even remove some roots to keep the renewed plant in bounds.

Plant pampas grass where it can be the dominant plant. Have it contrasted with lesser more subtle plants as a foil, not only to show off the lesser plants, but to accent the pampas grass itself. Once established, it takes very little water and, consequently, the contrast plants around it should be water-wise as well. If we have another drought situation, this is not at all bad! It is great for holding slopes in hard-to-get-to places and to fill those empty blank corners where nothing else seems to fit.

There is a similar plant to the pampas grass called *Cortaderia jubata* that has the same growing characteristics, but is smaller and less refined in its flower and leaf display. If you think pampas can spread its seeds easily, it is a piker in comparison with the jubata. Wind blown seeds can really become an area pest, and even though the plant is somewhat attractive, it is very hard to control. The best way to stem its spread is not to plant it in the first place, but barring that, get rid of the seedlings as soon as you find them.□

ROBERT HORWITZ is a retired aerospace engineer and a regular contributor to local publications.

GET THE MOST FROM YOUR CUT ROSES

by MARIANNE TRUBY

Go into your rose garden in the late afternoon with a bucket of tepid water and a sharp pair of pruners. Select blooms that have just begun to unfurl. Make a sharp angled cut and place immediately in water. Remove bucket of blooms to a cool area free of drafts and leave for two to three hours to "harden." A 50% solution of water and flat citrus soda will add to the life of roses. Recut stem when adding water or creating an arrangement.□





EFFICIENT VEGETABLE GARDENING: Getting More Out of Your Garden in Less Time

Paul Doscher, Timothy Fisher and Kathleen Kolb

Old Saybrook, Ct., Globe Pequot Press, 1993, 208 pages, 70 b&w photos, 60 illustrations, 7" x 10", softcover, $15.95

To borrow a word from the title, this is an efficient book. It is extensive in the range of information it covers, and intensive in the way it provides that information. This is not an easily-flowing narrative and the photographs (black & white only) are of mediocre quality, though these and other illustrations are plentiful. Organic gardening and maximum yields are strongly emphasized, and urban gardeners will find many ideas and much inspiration herein. There is good advice on companion planting, crop rotation, intercropping, and succession planting. The section on location mentions micro-climates. The authors discuss non-chemical methods of insect and disease control, season-extending devices and soil enrichment. There is an intriguing chapter on theme gardens which talks about various novelty sites and containers. Appendix A is called "Looking Back," and it gives an interesting mini-history of gardening in Europe and the USA beginning in Roman times. Serious vegetable gardeners will want to own this book and consult it frequently.

Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham

HOW TO GROW THE WILDFLOWERS

Eric A. Johnson and Scott Millard

Tucson, Ironwood Press, 1993, 128 pages, 120 color photos, 40 b&w photos, 8¼" x 10 ⅞", softcover, $14.95

Every spring visitor centers in parks throughout the West brace for calls asking for a predicted date for peak wildflower displays, and every spring hundreds of visitors decide to create a wildflower area in their gardens; this is the book to help them achieve their goal.

The authors are both knowledgeable and sensible in their approach, and the text is very readable. They explain how weather patterns influence the size and quality of annual flowerings and expound natural garden philosophy. Their stressed advice on proper preparation should decrease the failure rate for beginners. They advocate planting in the fall, and they give good information on soil and site preparation. Wildflowers can be mixed with garden flowers, and good planning can create some innovative landscape designs. This book discusses design basics, natural garden design and small-space gardens, including the use of containers. The focus is on the Western states, and all the plants discussed need only low maintenance and low water. Section III is called "Gallery of Wildflowers," and it contains a plant selection guide and forty-six pages of encouraging color photographs. Each entry on this list is given concise data on cultivation and a helpful map.

The authors' premise is that wildflower gardening can be much more than a scattering of seeds in an empty space, and this handy book more than proves their point.

Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham

GARDEN GRAPHICS: How to Plan and Map Your Garden

Gemma Nesbitt

Deer Park, WI, Capability's Books, Inc., 184 pages, 1993, 36 color photos, 36 color illustrations, 44 b&w illustrations, 10" x 8½", hardcover, $35.00

"Gardens are spaces where nature is selected and controlled." A brief historical description and sketches of garden maps since 1400 B.C. introduce the reader to this subject. Twenty-nine established gardens are mapped and photographed. There is a brief description of each and a list of the plants used.

The author is a graphic artist, illustrator and photographer. She has developed a new system of mapping that uses pictographs. The widely used system developed by Gertrude Jekyll that showed the relationship of plants inside garden plots is the basis of Gemma Nesbitt's system. Half the book is a dictionary of 950 pictographs of commonly grown plants (in England and in related climates) and 250 pictographs of garden architectural features.

The book has many good suggestions for mapping a garden. For example: the author suggests that the gardener make several copies of the plan and then color the areas to indicate the flowers that will be blooming in various seasons. I doubt that many gardeners would attempt to learn the pictographs, but the book could be very helpful for a beginning map-maker.

Reviewed by Barbara Jones

COMPLETE BOOK OF HERBS

Geraldene Holt

New York, Henry Holt and Co., Inc., 1992, 225 pages, 157 color photos, 43 color illustrations, 9 ⅛" x 10⅞", hardcover, $35.00

Renewed and continuing interest in the use of herbs has resulted in an even greater desire for information on all aspects of their culture and varied uses. They have been promoted for use in Southern California as low

maintenance and water conservation landscape material.

This volume will entice the casual reader by the beautiful colored photographs and closer inspection will reveal informative sections on the history of herbs, their uses for the gourmet cook (including recipes), and concoctions for teas and potpourris.

The book is well organized. A cultivation chart, a medicinal herb directory and a listing of some addresses of herb gardens in the United States enhance this informative and beautifully produced book.

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

TEMPERATE ZONE POMOLOGY: Physiology and Culture
Melvin N. Westwood
Portland, Timber Press,, 1993, 523 pages, 61 color photos, 50 b&w photos, 7¾" x 9¼", hardcover, $59.95

Although at first glance this book might seem to be a bit too technical for the average gardener or home orchardist, I found after a closer inspection a tremendous amount of useful information for fruit enthusiasts from small scale to professional. The third edition features new information on lesser-known fruits and a chapter on growing fruit in the tropics, making it relevant to the Southern California gardener. Chapters on site selection, varieties, rootstocks, cultural practices, hormones and growth regulators, etc., are a wealth of information. The text is rounded out with an Appendix, a Glossary and an extensive Bibliography.

The author, professor emeritus of horticulture at Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, is an internationally recognized pomologist, with many years experience in rootstock development, and was Technical Advisor for the National Clonal Germplasm Repository at Corvallis. His vast experience is evident in every chapter of the encyclopedic volume. While the price is higher than many of the "how-to" fruit growing manuals geared to the backyard gardener, the information-to-cost ratio makes this a bargain. I would recommend this book to anyone with a serious interest in fruit and fruit growing.

Reviewed by Michael Martin

POPPIES: a Guide to the Poppy Family in the Wild and in Cultivation
Christopher Grey-Wilson
Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 240 pages, 114 color photos, 38 line drawings, 6½" x 9½", hardcover, $32.95

Not only poppies but the entire poppy family (Papaveraceae) is included in this book. There is a nice balance between the coverage of the California natives (*Dendromecon, Eschhscholzia, Platystemon, Romneya*) and species in cultivation particularly *Papaver* and *Roemeria*. Favorite home gardener's poppies include *Papaver rhoeas* (the Shirley poppy named for Rev. W Wilkes, vicar of Shirley in Surrey), *Papaver nudicale* (Iceland poppies in today's gardens are generally cultivars or varieties of the true *P. nudicale*) and *Papaver orientale*. The author discusses the differences between the often confused *P. orientales* and *P. bracteum*.

History of discovery and development, habitat conditions in the wild and specific advice on cultivation for all genera and species makes for interesting reading or browsing. The 114 color photos by the author are excellent.

Reviewed by R. Cox

FERNS TO KNOW AND GROW
F. Gordon Foster
Portland, Timber Press, 1993, 244 pages, 150 b&w illustrations, 8½" x 11", softcover, $22.95

The book at hand is a softcover reprint of the 3rd edition which was issued in hardback in 1983. All have been written from the viewpoint of the northeastern gardener and over the years have become standard references for growers of hardy ferns that grow in the lands of ice and snow. For this third edition descriptions were added for about forty additional "exotic" and semitropical ferns which greatly enhance its value to those of us in the more temperate parts of the country. The text is still highly oriented to hardy ferns but the advice is sound and the descriptions of the individual species are excellent. Each is comprised of precise and beautiful drawings, exact but not overly technical descriptions of the areas in which it is naturally found. This is not the first fern book I would buy but it certainly has a prominent place on my bookshelf.

Reviewed by Bob Halley

A NEW LOOK AT VEGETABLES, Spring 1993
HOLLIES: a Gardener's Guide, Summer 1993
THE NATURAL LAWN & ALTERNATIVES, Autumn 1993
A NEW LOOK AT HOUSEPLANTS, Winter 1993
BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDEN HANDBOOKS
New York, Dist. by Sterling Press, 96 pages, full color, 6" x 9", softcover, $6.95

These four handbooks are, as usual, up to the standard of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Each handbook is a collection of articles by experts in their field. This format provides great diversity of coverage with the latest information on each subject. *The Natural Lawn and Alternatives* includes ground covers for shade, prairie grass and natives, sedge lawns, moss lawns, as well as information on chemical-free and pesticide-free lawns. The handbook, *Hollies*, covers recommended hollies in regard to region, propagation, planting and growing tips, and general characteristics. Subscription to these handbooks is included in Brooklyn Botanic Garden membership dues ($25 per year).

Reviewed by R. Cox

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GENERAL MEETINGS 1994

June 14, October 18
5:45 p.m.
Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Pres: Mrs. Ruth Smith 488-0830

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION (PWHLA)
Pres: Lucy Warren 295-0342
2nd Tue - Sep/Nov/Feb/Apr
6:30 pm, Casa del Prado

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC
Pres: Caroline Stabile 436-3036

SAN DIEGO ARTISTIC PLANT/LANDSCAPE
Vice Pres: Jeff Wilder 566-5834
3rd Sat - 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Casa del Prado, Room 104

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
Pres: Harold S. Berg 466-1445

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chr: Barbara Stevens 940-0902
1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Rudy Cesena 566-7557

GARDEN CLUBS:

BERNARDO GARDENER'S CLUB
Mrs. Maxine Schimmel 451-3482
3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center, Rancho Bernardo

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Lillian Castagna 267-6808
2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor, Sweetwater Road

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Toni Hoppe 435-5669

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Amos Cargal (Bea) 422-8970
3rd Wed - 1:00 pm, Rohr Park Manor, Bonita

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Virginia Soderberg 582-7098
1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Recreation Club House

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Pres: Mrs. Pat Starr 435-3849

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. John M. Andersen 435-9041
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Betty Gilliam 749-0039
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marty Peterson 743-3832

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mr. Wilford Gower 723-7164

FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chrm: Mrs. Electa Black 454-7575
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Dolores Smith 464-2457
2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive, La Mesa

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Marcia Wilcox 488-6467
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J.Lutheran Church

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Esther Schmidt 561-0867
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Olde Community Church, Maine Avenue, Lakeside

LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen 222-3643
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields 724-3749
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T-700

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Raymond Amos 724-3136
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T8

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda 272-9727
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Dir: Mrs. L.L. Cottingham (Nancy) 222-4616

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. W. Cross (Marilyn) 226-6441
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Maxine Tudor 451-1064

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton
Hort Chrm: Mrs. Shirley Arms
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Art Kuehn 582-0230
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mrs. Grant S. Baze 756-3443
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Cindy Drake 271-8933
4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library

THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Mrs. W. Keith Garrick (Pat) 287-0282
4th Thu - 1:00 pm, United Methodist Church

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.

THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Mr. William Winters 727-5505
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

IKEBANA SCHOOLS

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Haruko Crawford 660-2046
IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
Pres: Oleta Stevens 723-9490
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado
IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 278-5689
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
LA JOLLA CHAPTER
Pres: Connie Davis 672-0128
2nd Tues - 10:00 am
OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 276-4667
SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA
SAN DIEGO BRANCH
Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey 429-6198

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLETS

BALBOA PARK AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Leonard C. King 298-3754
4th Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Pat Akers 579-1975
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr,El Cajon
SAN DIEGO DAYTIME
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Toni Baker 582-7516
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church

BAMBOO

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY
Sec: George Shor 453-0334

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Crystal Zook 226-6667
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members
PALOMAR BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Eleanor Calkins 746-4743
SAN MIGUEL BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. T.M. O'Reilly (Thelma) 670-0830
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members

BONSAI

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.
Pres: Lucinda Grove 669-0542
2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF
BALBOA PARK
Pres: Stephen Johnson 484-5948
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Gayle Ver Steeg 488-1661
4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY
Pres: Eleanore Hewitt 753-3651
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Joseph Betzler 239-0804
2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Ruth Sheldon 464-1971
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Gerald Lohmann 279-5135
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Margaret Pethley 484-4189
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Phyllis Bates 436-1419
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS
Pres: Saul Goldstein 427-7775
4th Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND
SHADE PLANT SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Carl Hicks 748-0686
2nd Mon - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Gladys Ford 286-3976
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HEMEROCALLIS

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Pres: Ms. D. D. Herman-Walker 263-5324
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

HERB

THE S. D. COUNTY HERB SOCIETY
Pres: Kathleen Delancey 746-5038
THE HERB CLUB
Pres: Judy Dunning 669-0222
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Call for location

HOYA

SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP
c/o: Harriette Schapiro 273-4267
North County 432-8640

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES
IRIS SOCIETY
Pres: Dena L. Daugherty 909-763-6184
2nd Sat - 10:00 am
Casa de las Campanas, RB

IVY

THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Johnny Stellini 233-4338
1st Mon - Casa del Prado

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
Pres: Bertha McKinley 270-9573
3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Donna Zimmer 480-4750
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Home Fed Bank, RB

ORCHID

CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH
Pres: Craig Johnson 721-5547
3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Bud Close 444-8839
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Ernest Burley 479-9838
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Cherrie Grasso 421-7279
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Frank Grasso 235-0004
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES
Pres: Curt Lutz 224-4423

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN
SOCIETY
Contact: Walter Pagels 582-5408

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

CLASSIC GARDENS 459-0316
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla CA 92038-2711
MASTER LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC.
Robert Mayberry/Gary Rodriguez 296-9687
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Deadline for Jul-Aug issue: May 15, 1994.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOURS

SATURDAY, JUNE 18,1994
SEVEN PROFESSIONALLY LANDSCAPED PRIVATE GARDENS

Landscape architects do much more than design a basic garden for their clients. Once they have an assignment these professionals do not hesitate to alter the terrain; build/destroy hills, adjust slopes, expand a terrace, even enhance a view. Now they pridefully invite us to admire the finished projects. That's exactly what you can do on Saturday, June 18th.

Join us and tour seven of these outstanding private gardens which will be open on this day only. The properties are scattered all over the county, from San Diego proper to La Jolla, on to La Costa, Encinitas and Solana Beach. Do sign up early (limit of 44), wear a hat and comfortable walking shoes (no spike heels please) and bring your camera. Lunch is included and the tour terminates around 5 p.m. with a reception at a "fabulous estate." That a quote from the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects who sponsor this unique event.

Saturday, June 18, 1994
SEVEN PRIVATE GARDENS — ASLA
LUNCH IS INCLUDED

☐ $40.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)
☐ $43.00 Non-Members, Members of Affiliates

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PICK-UPS
☐ Red Lobster Park and Ride, Grossmont Center La Mesa 8:30am
☐ Fashion Valley, SW corner near Penney's 9:00am

SATURDAY, May 7, 1994
SPECTACULAR PRIVATE GARDENS

We are invited to visit two of the loveliest private gardens in North County. Our day begins in Rancho Santa Fe, where an almost new garden has been coaxed into incredible bloom by Agatha Youngblood.

Our hostess has not yet selected a name for her garden, but she thinks of it as a cottage-style endeavor with a definite California flavor. You'll probably think of it as a paradise. Clearly, no one will be anxious to leave, so we'll tempt you away with a pleasant lunch (included).

Our second invitation comes from Dr. Robert Graham in Escondido. The good doctor has lavished his time, talent and attention on his ten acres, aptly named Shadybrook. A natural stream bisects his property and runs amid those huge live oaks—some centuries old—that provide the shade.

Flowers bloom everywhere in a profusion of colors. This is a well-established garden, where years of care and thoughtful planting have been combined. The result is a tasteful and intelligent enhancement of a natural beauty spot.

CHANGE IN PRICE

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PICK-UPS
☐Red Lobster Park and Ride Grossmont Center, La Mesa 8:30 a.m.
☐Fashion Valley, SW corner near Penney's 9:00 a.m.



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VISTA GARDEN CLUB 60TH ANNUAL
FLOWER SHOW and PLANT SALE

THEME: "A TIME TO CELEBRATE"
WHEN: Sat., May 7 from 1:30 to 5:00.
Sun., May 8 from 10:00 to 4:00.
WHERE: Brengle Senior Center
(in Brengle Terrace Park)
1400 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista, CA
FREE: There will be no charge.
DETAILS: Artistic Arrangements, educational exhibits, horticultural displays. Novices and first-timers are welcome to exhibit. Ribbons will be awarded.
MORE INFORMATION: (619) 726-4411, or
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by Eric Sigg



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